

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /087 W

-----181620Z 122412 /53

R 181232Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9215

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, GB, US

SUBJ: CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE REPORTEDLY SEEKING NEW TIES  
WITH US

SUMMARY: GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO REPORTS THAT GOCB STRONGLY  
WISHES RE-ESTABLISH TIES WITH USG AND IS LIKELY TAKE INITIA-  
TIVE SHORTLY TO THIS END. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING APRIL 18, PRESIDENT BONGO REPORTED THAT HE  
HAD RECEIVED VISIT FROM GOCB AMBASSADOR TO UN MONDJO  
(PHONETIC), WHO REITERATED TO HIM STRONG GOCB DESIRE IMPROVE  
RELATIONSWITH US. BONGO SAID HE HAS ALSO DISCUSSED SUBJECT  
IN CLP

IYS WITH NEW CONGO/B CHIEF OF STATE YHOMBY,  
TELLING LATTER THAT GABON IS PREPARED TO HELP SO LONG AS  
GOCB WILL COMMIT ITSELF NOT TO UNDERMINE GABONESE EFFORTS  
BY CASUAL ATTACKS ON US POLICY. ACCORDING BONGO, HE HAS  
NOW RECEIVED CONFIRMING LETTER FROM YHOMBY CONTAINING  
ASSURANCES THAT GOCB WILL BEHAVE CIRCUMSPECTLY IN THIS REGARD,  
AND EVIDENTLY IMPLYING THAT CONGOLESE WILL MAKE  
APPROACH IN NEAR FUTURE TO USG.

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2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, BONGO CONFIRMED STORIES CIR-  
CULATING ELSEWHERE THAT HE HAD ADVISED GOCB "COMMITTEE  
OF ELEVEN" FOLLOWING DEATH OF NGOUABI TO CHOOSE YHOMBY  
RATHER THAN SASSOU AS CHIEF OF STATE. BONGO DESCRIBED  
LATTER AS YOUNGER AND MORE IDEOLGICALLY INCLINED THATN  
YHOMBY, AND SAID HE HAD TOLD CONGOLESE THAT YHOMBY

WOULD INSPIRE GREATER CONFIDENCE ON PART OF WESTERN STATES TO WHICH THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ECONOMIC HELP. PRESIDENT ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT YHOMBY IS ACCUSED OF BEING CAPITALIST INTERESTED ONLY IN MONEY AND SASSOU HAS MADE ENEMIES BY CHASING WRONG WOMEN, IMPLYING THAT NEITHER INSPIRES GREAT CONFIDENCE. BONGO CONCLUDED THAT SASSOU IS CURRENTLY BEING PROTECTED BY CUBAN DETACHMENT WHILE YHOMBY IS RELYING ON CONGOLESE MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, SITUATION WHICH CONTAINS SEEDS OF POTENTIAL FUTURE INSTABILITY.

3. COMMENT: BONGO GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE IS PLANNING NEW INITIATIVES WITH USG ON BEHALF OF CONGOLESE, WHOM HE EVIDENTLY EXPECTS TO MAKE APPROACHES ON THEIR OWN. STEIGMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE REPORTEDLY SEEKING NEW TIES WITH US SUMMARY: GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO REPORTS THAT GOC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CF, GB, US  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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